



Informational Notes for EMDs and Local Officials

Bulletin #41– December 15, 2003

The Sunshine Law, Section 19 Relating to Security

For those of us involved in Homeland Security, the question occasionally arises as to what records or information in our possession is open to public access. Chapter 610 of Missouri's statutes, known as the "Sunshine Law," encompasses Missouri's open records law. The Sunshine Law states that most meetings, votes, and records of public bodies are open to the public. One statute, 610.021, lists the exceptions to the open records law - those records and meetings that may be closed. In particular, section 19 of this statute may apply to entities involved in Homeland Security.

Section 19 quoted as follows: "Existing or proposed security systems and structural plans of real property owned or leased by a public governmental body, the public disclosure of which would threaten public safety. Records related to the procurement of or expenditures relating to security systems shall be open except to the extent provided by this section: When seeking to close information pursuant to this exception, the public governmental body shall affirmatively state in writing that disclosure would impair the public body's ability to protect the security or safety of persons or real property, and shall in the same writing state that the public interest in nondisclosure outweighs the public interest in disclosure of the records. This exception shall sunset on December 31, 2006."

The decision to release any requested information related to security should be first reviewed by legal counsel representing the municipal or county agency in cooperation with appropriate officials responsible for security. This should be a case-by-case basis.

First Responders Committee Talks with Regional Response Teams

The Emergency Responders Committee of the Missouri Security Council met on December 3, 2003 in the State Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Operation Center. This committee is charged with working with federal, state and local authorities to recommend appropriate training, equipment and preparedness standards for Missouri's Emergency Responders and make recommendations for improving the response and recovery capabilities of state government.

This meeting was the first time that all of the coordinators for the Homeland Security Response Teams were together to discuss issues such as standards, training, areas of improvement, and dispersal of Homeland Security Grant money. These discussions centered on issues such as standardized training courses, regional exercises that were broad in scope and involve all agencies, in-progress reports on response team activities, and interoperability issues. In conclusion, all participants felt the meeting was a success and agreed that participants should meet twice a year to discuss these and other issues.

Statewide Tornado Drill Will Be March 16!

The National Weather Service selected March 16th (the third Tuesday in March) as the date for the 30th Statewide Tornado Drill. "Since March has five Tuesdays, the five meteorologists covering Missouri felt the 16th would be an opportune time to hold the Missouri and Kansas statewide drills," said Jim Kramper, NWS in St Louis. If there is inclement weather on March 16th, the NWS will send a mid-morning message announcing the drill backup date - Thursday, March 18th.

DHS Unveils New Bio-terror Detection Program

The Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology division unveiled the details about a program that currently operates in thirty-one metropolitan areas across the country to help detect a biological attack. The BioWatch Program is a \$60 million network that places air-monitoring sensors throughout major metropolitan areas. Highly sensitive and capable of detecting minimal quantities of targeted biological pathogens, the system plays a crucial role in reducing the public health consequences in the event of an attack.

The program has been operational in some of the nation's major metropolitan areas since early 2003. Air samples are collected daily and tested for biological pathogens. Over a half million analyses have already been performed with only one positive detection. In that case BioWatch in Houston detected tularemia last month. Although tularemia could be used in a bio-terror attack, it also occurs naturally in animals, as was the result in Texas.

Led and funded by the Department of Homeland Security, the BioWatch Program is operated in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; the Environmental Protection Agency; and state and local environmental, health, and homeland security agencies across the nation.

Private Non-Profit (PNP) Facility Eligibility

In line with the President's executive order on faith – based and community organizations, the **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** has broadened the eligibility of certain **private nonprofit (PNP)** groups to receive disaster assistance. The new policy (Recovery Division Policy number 9521.3) is available on FEMA's website at: http://www.fema.gov/rrr/pa/9521_3.shtm.

PNP facilities that sustain damages from a disaster, which results in a Presidential Disaster Declaration, are **strongly encouraged** to attend a Local Officials Public Assistance Applicants Briefing. These briefings are conducted by SEMA following a federal disaster declaration. It is also recommended that such organizations notify their local Emergency Management office or local officials of their damages. This information needs to be included in the local Preliminary Damage Assessment.

Several eligibility issues need to be addressed in order to obtain disaster assistance. If you have questions concerning this policy, please contact the Public Assistance staff at (573) 526 – 9234.

Businesses in 52 Missouri Counties Eligible for SBA Assistance from Drought

Businesses in 52 Missouri Counties can now apply for low interest Economic Injury Disaster Loans from the Small Business Administration based on an agricultural drought declaration since January 2003. The agricultural drought caused many farmers and ranchers to experience reduced incomes, which may have adverse economic impacts on businesses.

The 52 counties are: Adair, Andrew, Atchison, Barton, Bates, Benton, Boone, Buchanan, Caldwell, Camden, Carroll, Cass, Cedar, Chariton, Clay, Clinton, Cooper, Dade, Dallas, Daviess, De Kalb, Gentry, Grundy, Harrison, Henry, Hickory, Holt, Howard, Jackson, Jasper, Johnson, Lafayette, Linn, Livingston, Macon, Mercer, Miller, Moniteau, Morgan, Nodaway, Pettis, Platte, Polk, Putnam, Randolph, Ray, Saline, Schuyler, St. Clair, Sullivan, Vernon and Worth.

SEMA Winter Newsletter Posted to Internet /New Email for SEMA!

The SEMA Winter 2003 Newsletter is now posted to the SEMA Homepage. The Spring 2004 will be the last newsletter printed in hardcopy form. Future awareness campaigns will also be posted to the Internet. In the future, SEMA readers and EMDs will receive an email announcement to check the homepage.

Note: SEMA's new homepage address is sema.dps.mo.gov. The new address is effective immediately. SEMA staff also have a new email address: firstname.lastname@sema.dps.mo.gov for example the new email address would be susie.stonner@sema.dps.mo.gov or if you are using the Internet you may go to directory on our homepage and click on the name.

Holden Reauthorizes Partnership

Governor Holden signed an executive order reauthorizing the Disaster Recovery Partnership. The executive order lists both new and established responsibilities for the Partnership. Those responsibilities are:

- Reviewing and implementing, as appropriate, the recommendations of the original Disaster Recovery Partnership;
- Reviewing the human service's disaster response and recovery delivery methods with a goal of improving service to the citizens of Missouri;
- Designing methods of more rapid collection and analysis of data on disaster victims and their needs;
- Developing a simplified intake system linked to centralized databanks to improve human services response and recovery services;
- Establishing more rapid and complete communications to disaster victims and care-givers during emergency response and recovery stages;
- Promoting, training and supporting local committees, similar to the local unmet needs committees formed during the flood of 1993, with additional support to the establishment of community Citizen Councils;
- Functioning as a Statewide Citizen Council for the State of Missouri, with support to the Homeland Security Council on post-disaster human services issues.

Paul Schleer, former SEMA Deputy Director, (1933-2003)

Paul Schleer, former SEMA Deputy Director, died December 5, 2003, from complications of cancer. A businessman and community leader, he owned a hardware store (1959-83) and served as Cole County Presiding Judge from 1975-1982. He joined SEMA in 1983 as the Times Beach (near St. Louis) buyout specialist. He was promoted to Deputy Director in 1991 under former SEMA Director R. D. Ross. As legislative liaison, he introduced seven major pieces of emergency management related legislation, which are now law. The statutes include: earthquake drills and seismic codes for public buildings in the 47 counties in the New Madrid Seismic Zone, established the post catastrophic building damage inspections by trained volunteers aka SAVE Coalition, an easy method for local jurisdictions' public safety to receive or render mutual aid, established the Missouri Seismic Safety Commission, legislation which allows certain trained employees administrative leave to serve as Red Cross volunteers during disasters, and legislation which allows Missouri to render or receive mutual aid from states during a disaster. Schleer retired from SEMA in 1998. He worked as a FEMA disaster assistance employee specializing in congressional liaison activities.

Rocket Deployed Parachutes May Cause Problems for Accident Responders

Some civilian airplanes feature a new crash safety device – a rocket deployed parachute. In a crash situation, a pilot may activate a rocket-launched parachute to save the lives of the passengers. If an airplane has this safety feature, a company logo will be placed on the outside body of the aircraft. While it takes only seconds to active the rocket in a crash situation, a pilot may opt not to deploy the parachute. In this situation, first responders may find themselves working on or near an airplane with the ballistic device still ready to fire.

The BRS Parachute Company issued a safety bulletin. This bulletin has photographs of the ballistic deployment system and directions on dismantling the inactivated device at a crash site. The information may be downloaded from the BRS Parachute homepage: <http://brsparachutes.com>. Click on the safety information link, and then click on Emergency Personnel for the information. The information was published in the FAA Aviation News, September 2003 issue.

32 Missouri Fire Departments Receive Grants

FEMA announced 32 Missouri Fire Departments received Fire Grants in round 23, 24, 25 and 26 announcements. Fire Departments receiving grants for Fire Operations & Firefighter Safety were: Brookfield FD (\$80,897); Chula RFD (\$46,035); Doniphan FD (\$51,721); Fairfax VFD (\$26,361); Lee's Summit FD EMS (\$91,140); Linneus FPD (\$44,493); Norwood Community FD (\$75,540); Robertson FPD (\$101,151); Senath FD (\$93,957); Shrewsbury FD (\$27,900); Waynesville RFPD (\$124,040); and Wellington-Napoleon FRD (\$41,635).

Fire Departments receiving grants for Fire Prevention were: Richmond FD (\$35,708).

Fire Departments receiving grants for Fire Vehicles were: Adair County RFD #1 (\$90,000); BB Road (Alton) VFD (\$90,000); Crocker FDP (\$148,500); Dadeville RFPD (\$180,000); Dunnegan RFD (\$121,791); Hazelgreen FPD (\$121,500); Helena FD (\$40,500); Higbee Area FPD (\$112,948); Iberia RFPD (\$164,700); Lexington FD (\$225,000); Matthews VFD \$181,538; Monticello VFD (\$72,000); Morrisville Fire & Rescue (\$143,100); Northeast R-4 (Cairo) RFA (\$144,000); Ozora Community (St. Mary) FPD (\$195,570); Pleasant View (Springfield) FPD (\$76,500); Stewartsville FPD (\$31,500); Wheaton FD (\$166,500); and Wood Heights (Excelsior Springs) FPD (\$162,000).

CDC Establishes New Consolidated Influenza (Flu) Website

The CDC has established a consolidated website to provide information about influenza (flu) for the public and healthcare professionals at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>. Please visit Disaster Help (<https://disasterhelp.gov>) for further information and support resources.

Look At Government/Public Works Facilities Needs for Future Grants Assessments

SEMA recently met with the Office of States Courts Administrators personnel and they had concerns courthouse personnel and facilities were not being included/considered in the Office of Domestic Preparedness grant programs. We ask that you ensure you take a look at all your governmental and public works facilities during the grant planning process, especially in the areas of physical security and cyber security enhancement programs. Recipients of past grants need to review their security planning documents in these areas and identify needs. Jurisdictions that have not been selected for participation in past grant cycles need to review and/or develop these documents and within the document identify any needs in these areas.

Special Needs Populations Committee Formed

A Special Needs Population Committee is charged with assessing and planning for the needs of special populations during emergencies be they natural, accidental or intentional. These populations include the homeless, mentally impaired, seniors, children, children with special health care needs, etc. The committee will begin work on a strategic plan. The committee's findings and recommendations will be incorporated into current emergency response plans.

The following definition for special needs populations was adopted by the committee during its first meeting: "Any individual, group or community whose age, physical, mental, emotional, cognitive, cultural, ethnic, socio-economic status, language, citizenship status, or any other circumstance creates barriers to understanding or the ability to act/react in the manner in which the general population has been requested to proceed during all phases of emergency management."

Committee members are from Department of Health and Social Services, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Division of Vocational and Adult Rehabilitation, State Emergency Management Agency, Homeland Security, Department of Mental Health, Department of Social Services, Governor's Council on Disabilities, Red Cross, Salvation Army, Missouri Hospital Association, Missouri Primary Care Association and other agencies.

**Best Wishes for Happy Holiday Season
And a Prosperous and Safe New Year!**